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LETTER

FROM

Mr. HODGES

At LONDON.

TO

A Member of the Parliament  
of SCOTLAND:

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EDINBURGH,

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# LETTER

From *Mr. HODGES* at *London*,

TO

*A Member of the Parliament of SCOTLAND.*

*My Lord,*

**T**HE Honour I have of your Lordships Acquaintance, and confidence of your Zeal for promoting your Countreys Interest, have made me presume to offer you the following account of my Endeavours relating thereto. That I have for a long time bestow'd my Thoughts with great Application to the forming a Synopsis, and laying a Ground-Work for *A compleat Body of politick Learning*, not Notional, but profitable and practicable; than which there is perhaps nothing more wanting in the World, for Discovering, Advancing, and Securing the civil Interests of Mankind; and wherein all National Concerns, being reduced to Twelve general Heads, are to be treated of under each Head, according to their different Nature.

These Heads are 1. Government. 2. Laws and Administration of Justice. 3. Defence. 4. Taxes, Contributions, and raising Money for National Services. 5. Precaution about probable or possible Contingencies. 6. Peopling, Depopulating, and provision for the Poor. 7. Trade. 8. Coyn. 9. Credit. 10. Oeconomy publick and privat, relating to prudent Management of the publick Revenue, and of privat Estates and Families. 11. Education of Youth. 12. Pious Donations,

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and about the influence of Ecclesiastick Government and Discipline upon civil Concerns: All which Matters are to be inquir'd into, and calculated with a special regard to the particular Circumstances of *Scotland*.

In the prosecution of this Study, I have observed that, whereas most Nations do excell one another in some or more National Concerns and Advantages proper to themselves, *Scotland* tho capable to excell in many such Advantages, yet excelleth in none.

That no Nation in *Europe* laboureth under so many, and so great National Disadvantages and Inconveniencies, which it is in their own power to help, as *Scotland* doth.

And that their neglect of Trade and Industry for a hundred Years past so unsuitable to the Opportunities they have had, and the Example and Diligence of their Neighbours about them, hath sunk them into so great an Inequality with them, as to Power and Wealth, that no recovery of that Loss in any considerable degree can be reasonable expected, except by Means and Encouragements altogether extraordinary, and which were never practis'd by any Nation before them, their Circumstances necessarily requiring something of that Nature, if ever they are to make any Figure amongst Nations, who have so far taken the start of them.

For a Remedy suitable thereto, my Inquiries into the mentioned Subjects have, as I humbly conceive, enabled me to propose to my Countrey several ways of advancing their National Interest, that shall far excell all that was ever propos'd or practis'd by any Nation before them. And particularly

As to Trade, that *Scotland* shall be able to Erect it self into a Free-port, not only without any prejudice to the publick Revenue of Customs, but to the great increase thereof.

That :



That all Traders in the Kingdom shall trade at the Rate of an equivalent to ready Money payment.

That all shall trade with an Insurance against contingent loss at Sea.

That all Traders Abroad bringing in Money for Goods exported or otherways, shall be payed out of a publick Stock 20 per Cent profite, beside what Profite they can make of their Trade in the Ordinary way of Traffick.

And that a way shall be proposed for settling a Fishing Trade, which shall be able to under-sell all the Traders in that Commodity in Europe.

As to Defence, whereas *Scotland* was formerly able to raise at any time above an hundred thousand Men, ready fitted for Warr, which power is now sunk to a standing Army of about three or four thousand, and the rest of the Kingdom left in the quality of an undisciplined Mobb; A way shall be proposed far excellling all that is practised in any other Nation, for putting and keeping the whole Nation in a perpetual Posture of Warr for Defence, without loss of other Business; and after such a manner as shall maintain a constant standing Countrey Force, double to what is now, and Officers of Warr in constant pay, triple to what are now maintained by the standing Army.

As to Depopulation, which is the most wasting and weakening of all other National Evils, and which *Scotland*, tho one of the most fruitful People on Earth, is more lyable to, than any other Nation whatever, great Numbers of People after the Expense bestowed on their Education, being yearly forced out from amongst them, and scattered abroad through the Earth for want of Encouragement and profitable Business at Home; I hope that for preventing this great Evil in time coming, some effectual Expedients shall be proposed from the said Inquiries for increase of People, keeping them at Home, bringing back those

those who have left their Countrey, and alluring also those of other Nations, which beside an extraordinary Increase of Trade to be occasioned thereby, shall of their own proper Nature far exceed all Encouragements of that kind to be found in any other Nation.

And whereas all Defects in the Advancement of Trade, Art, Science and Industry, as also the Growth of Intemperance, Vice, and Luxury, and all the Mistakes, Ignorance and Neglect of National Concerns and Rights, and Introduction of Abuses in the Government and otherways, are chiefly chargeable amongst all People, upon the Corruption and want of a due Education of Youth; I do humbly undertake that from the reasonableness and consequence of the same mentioned Inquiries, a way shall be proposed for a course of three Years educating of Youth, after finishing their time at Schools and Colledges: Which shall far exceed all Methods of educating Youth, that now is, or ever was practised in any other Nation.

This Design is founded in a Proposal compleated several years ago, for erecting an Academy of Warr and universal Learning; wherein beside the Art and Discipline of Warr, all the most valuable Sciences, and Arts known and practised amongst men, are to be taught and learned in a method of pleasant Diversion, without tasking or constraint. A way being laid for building the Academy, furnishing it with all Necessaries and Conveniencies, procuring the best Masters in *Europe* to Teach in it, and maintaining all the various Officers and Servants Superior and Inferiour, which its *Oeconomy* and Management shall require. So that tho this will undoubtedly be the noblest Establishment of that kind, both for Grandure and Pleasure, as well as profit that ever was in the World, yet it shall no ways exceed the Capacity of *Scotland* to accomplish it: The Expence of the whole being already compted, a way proposed

posed how to raise the Money without hindering any other National Concern, and cleared how this Academy will in a few years be able not only to maintain, but enlarge it self, without any Charge to the Nation.

As for my Capacity to make good those so great Undertakings, I humbly offer to Consideration, that seeing all men excell in Sciences, Arts, and Inventions no other ways than by a more intense Application of thought, I hope some Allowance may be granted for expecting at least something or other more than ordinary from above seven years Study and Inquiries into National Concerns, with a more large and comprehensive Design, than any publick Account doth instance any other person to have attempted before me.

Beside that, having on divers occasions made publick several Specimens of my Inquiries into National Affairs, a Judgement may be made therefrom, without need of adding any new one, until a fitter Opportunity offers. And I do refer particularly to the first and last, to wit, to the Treatise Entituled, *The present state of England as to Coin & publick Charges, &c.* and that Entituled, *The Rights and Interests of the two British Monarchies inquired into and cleared, with a special respect to an united or separat State, &c.*

If I had an Estate able to support me in the prosecution of these Designs, I would account it a great Honour to spend it in my Countries Service, but as it is, my purposes cannot be brought to maturity without assistance.

I suppose your Lordship will easily consider, that for carrying on successfully so great a Work, a considerable Expence will be necessary for purchasing the best Books that have been written upon the several Subjects above-mentioned; As likewise for employing some to make Observations, and Collections out of them, as they shall be directed, and others for transcribing and copying Original Papers, and Dictats made and to be made.



made; Which must far exceed the Pains and Labour of any one person.

I am humbly of Opinion, that less than 300 *lib. Sterl.* a year, cannot make a reasonable or sufficient Incouragement for this Work.

And if my Countrey is disposed to venture so small a matter on a reasonable prospect of so large a Return; I do humbly propose what I conceive may prove the easiest way of raising the Money, as well as the surest for making it effectual for the Purposes, to which it is to be applied.

Which is with all due Submission, that an advance of one Months Cess be added to the ordinary Supplies, and put into the Custody either of the Bank, or the Town of *Edinburgh*, and the Interest thereof at 5 *per Cent*, ordered to be payed to me during my Life by those with whom the Money is intrusted; and after my decease the Stock to return for paying a Months Cess in the ordinary Supplies, which makes this Advancement no more, than one Friends lending to another a Sum of Money for carrying on a Design, which promiseth fair for great Advantage to the Lender; and who in the mean time is sufficiently secured that he shall not lose one penny of his Money, go the Design as it will.

And I do promise that in two years time (if God spare me Life and Health,) I shall have in readiness to offer in publick the Four Undertakings above-mentioned relating to Incouragement of Trade, Increase of People, Defence, and the Academy of Warr, and Universal Learning, beside some other things relating to the Union, which I have now under Consideration

Those Proposals are what I humbly desire may be lai'd before the present Honourable Meeting of Parliament, to whose great wisdom I, as in duty I am bound, do most humbly submit them all. And being deprived at present of another way of access, I have presumed to commit the whole Managment hereof to your Lordship, hoping for your Care therein, from the great Love which I know you have for your Countrey, and from the favour wherewith on that account you have been pleased to Honour,

*My Lord*

*Your Lordships most Humble and most Faithfull Servant.*

J. HODGES,

London July 10. 1703.







